



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

tion of such volumes as this, our oldest Historical Society is rendering a valuable service in this department of literature; and we cannot but congratulate its officers and members on the success which has so often crowned their labors. So far as we have noticed, the volume is carefully and accurately printed; but there is an obvious error in the date prefixed to Major-General Dix's letter on p. 374, and the Index is by no means so full as we could have wished.

10. — 1. *The Pearl of Orr's Island: a Story of the Coast of Maine.*

By MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Minister's Wooing," etc. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1862. 12mo. pp. 437.

2. *Agnes of Sorrento.* By MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Minister's Wooing," etc. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1862. 12mo. pp. 410.

IF these two novels show but little versatility in the delineation of character and not much skill in the management of the plot, they nevertheless give abundant evidence of that ability to acquire and maintain a control over all the sympathies of her readers, which is the chief source of Mrs. Stowe's power as a writer. Her books are always intensely interesting, and one does not read many pages before he finds it hard to tear himself away from the simple and sometimes homely narrative. Her style is for the most part of crystal clearness and purity, and has that flexibility and harmony which are of the first importance to a writer of fiction. Her descriptions of scenery and natural objects are remarkably spirited and accurate, and she is scarcely less successful in painting local manners and customs. Her uncommon merits in both of these respects are well shown in the first of the two works now before us; and we know not where to look for a better picture of ordinary New England life half a century ago than is exhibited in it.

"The Pearl of Orr's Island" is a simple and affecting story, such as might be drawn from the annals of almost any one of our New England seaport towns. The scene is laid on a little island near Bath, Maine, and, with the exception of a single episode narrated in a letter, all the incidents take place there or in the immediate neighborhood. The heroine is one of those saintly characters which are not unfrequently met with in real life, whose fragile bodies seem scarcely able to sustain the sensitive spirit within. Her father is drowned within sight of home on his return from a distant voyage, and her mother dies a few hours afterward in giving her birth. Thus left an orphan almost

from her first breath, she grows up, under the care of her maternal grandfather and grandmother, into a lovely but delicate woman, and dies on the eve of her own marriage, a victim of that insidious disease which removes so many of our loveliest and best. The hero is thrown ashore on the same little island while a mere child, the only survivor from another wreck, is adopted by Mara's grandparents, and under their tender care he becomes a strong and healthy boy. When he reaches manhood, he builds a ship, of which he is the master, and returns from sea only in time to watch over the last hours of his betrothed, the playmate of his childhood and the self-sacrificing friend of his youth. A few other personages such as would be found in any community like that of Orr's Island and its neighborhood are the only other characters in the book. But with such materials as these, and with simple and natural incidents, Mrs. Stowe has constructed a story of singular pathos and beauty. No one can read it without acknowledging its power, and feeling all his sympathies awakened as if by some actual occurrence within his own knowledge and under his own observation.

"Agnes of Sorrento" is a tale of much less ability and interest than "The Pearl of Orr's Island," though it bears considerable resemblance to it, and contains many passages of graceful or picturesque description. It is an Italian story of the time of Savonarola, who figures as one of the characters in it, and as a picture of Italy in the latter half of the fifteenth century it possesses much merit. Agnes, indeed, is a mere reduplication, under other circumstances and amid different influences, of Mara, and her mother's peculiarities recall at once similar traits in several of the subordinate characters in the former work.

-
11. — *A Practical Guide to the Study of the Diseases of the Eye: their Medical and Surgical Treatment.* By HENRY W. WILLIAMS, M. D., Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Honorary Fellow of the Rhode Island Medical Society, Member of the American Medical Association, etc., etc., etc. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1862. 12mo. pp. xii. and 317.

It seldom happens that a medical book is to be commended as a specimen of typographical excellence; but this one is a luxury for overworked eyes, and we are glad that Dr. Williams has given so admirable an illustration of the connection existing between good printing and the preservation of good eyesight. The volume is printed in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired, and is creditable to every